

Mayerson, David, NMENV

From: LucasKamat, Susan, EMNRD
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2010 08:39
To: Mayerson, David, NMENV
Cc: Pfeil, John, EMNRD; Bahar, Dana, NMENV
Subject: RE: Section 32 mine - MARP Prior Rec files
Attachments: Bucky_mine_PCS_07152010_SALK.doc; Chill_Willis_PCS_07012010_SALK.doc; Dysart_1_PCS07012010_SALK.doc; Dysart_2_SALK.doc; Hogan_mine_PCS_07062010_SALK.doc; John_Bull_05202010_SALK.doc; Johnny_M_06022010_SALK.doc; Section_32_mine_PCS_07202010_SALK_edits.doc

David:
Here are the site screen with MMD's comments.

From: Mayerson, David, NMENV
Sent: Mon 8/16/2010 7:34 AM
To: LucasKamat, Susan, EMNRD
Cc: Pfeil, John, EMNRD; Bahar, Dana, NMENV
Subject: RE: Section 32 mine - MARP Prior Rec files

Thanks for this information, Susan. As you noted, I didn't have much else to go on.

Will you be able to get me comments/corrections on the rest of the PCSs today? I have to get these completed this week as I am leaving on vacation after Thursday. Thanks.

David L. Mayerson

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Normal work schedule: Monday-Thursday 0745-1615

From: LucasKamat, Susan, EMNRD
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2010 14:06
To: Mayerson, David, NMENV
Cc: Pfeil, John, EMNRD
Subject: Section 32 mine - MARP Prior Rec files

Here are some site reports for the Section 32 that are after the Anderson (1980) report.

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08/16/2010

Site ownership and Potential Responsible Parties

After discovery of the ore body in 1968, Harrison Western Corporation sunk a shaft between 1972 and 1973. The mine was operated by Kop-Ran Development Corporation and Ranchers Exploration and Development between 1976 through 1982. Hecla Mining Company was the successor to Rancher's interests in the Site prior to April 2, 1985 (Ref. 16). The last recorded Site operator was Newmont Mining Company.

Comment [SALK2]: Newmont was never an operator. Newmont is the successor of the mineral rights since the Santa Fe Railroad sold all their mineral rights in the area to Newmont.

The mineral rights were held by the Santa Fe Railroad in 1982 (Ref. 17). The surface is currently owned by Fernandez Company Limited and Floyd Lee Ranch. According to Mr. Lee, new mining claims have been staked on the Site in recent years.

File review:

Files that were reviewed for this assessment are listed below.

Site reconnaissance:

Personnel from NMED and the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department conducted a Site reconnaissance on July 26, 2010; Mr. Harry Lee accompanied state personnel to the head of valley in which the Site is located. All gamma readings shown on the figure accompanying this report were made with a Ludlum 14-C analog scintillometer (serial number 194209) with an uncollimated Ludlum 44-2 gamma detector (serial number PR241278), for which readings are recorded in counts per minute ("cpm"). Contact readings from this instrument ranged from 2800 cpm on the access road at the head of the valley above the minesite, to 260,000 cpm on the graded area near the mouth of valley. The ground surface at the Site was very wet from heavy rainfall that had occurred during days prior to the Site reconnaissance, and additional rain occurred sporadically throughout the Site visit. According to a representative from Ludlum, such environmental conditions could cause readings from the instrument to be higher than would otherwise occur under dry conditions. Additional elevation of readings also may occur due to radioactivity "shine" caused by topographic conditions or nearby radioactive sources. As further evidence of these potential effects upon the data herein reported, a grab sample of soil from Geographic Positioning Station ("GPS") 14, shown on the accompanying figure, was collected in a ziplock bag, allowed to desiccate for a day, and then another scintillometer reading was taken of the sample. The reading in the field at the location of this sample was 120,000 cpm; the reading from the sample was 12,000 cpm.

During the Site reconnaissance, State personnel also viewed the location of a nearby incomplete mine shaft that originally had been sunk by the Kerr-McGee Corporation on the Floyd Lee Ranch; this shaft has been converted into a water well.

According to Mr. Lee, all possible accesses to ground water in the vicinity of the Site and including those on the Site have been sampled recently by Strathmore Minerals Corporation as part of their baseline data collection for the proposed Roca Honda mine.

Recommendation:

Additional investigation of the Site is recommended to determine if any impacts or conditions exist that would pose threats to human health and the environment, especially the presence of unexploded blasting caps. NMED recommends performance of a radiological Site survey